

Ankara's flagrant violations of OSCE standards and norms continues and the problems raised by the United States Delegation to the OSCE Review Meeting last November persist.

Expert witnesses at a recent Commission briefing underscored the continued, well-documented, and widespread use of torture by Turkish security forces and the failure of the Government of Turkey to take determined action to correct such gross violations of OSCE provisions and international humanitarian law. Even the much heralded reduction of periods for the detention of those accused of certain crimes has failed to deter the use of torture. The fact is that this change on paper is commonly circumvented by the authorities. As one U.S. official in Turkey observed in discussion with Commission staff, a person will be held in incommunicado detention for days, then the prisoner's name will be postdated for purposes of official police logs giving the appearance that the person has been held within the period provided for under the revised law. Turkish authorities also continue to persecute those who attempt to assist the victims of torture, as in the case of Dr. Tufan Köse.

Despite revisions in the anti-Terror Law, its provision continue to be broadly used against writers, journalists, publishers, politicians, musicians, and students. Increasingly, prosecutors have applied Article 312 of the Criminal Code, which forbids "incitement to racial or ethnic enmity." Government agents continue to harass human rights monitors. According to a recent report issued by the Committee to Protect Journalists, 78 journalists were in jail in Turkey at the beginning of 1997—more than in any other country in the world.

Many human rights abuses have been targeted at Kurds who publicly or politically assert their Kurdish identity. The Kurdish Cultural and Research Foundation offices in Istanbul were closed by police in June to prevent the teaching of Kurdish language classes. In addition, four former parliamentarians from the now banned Kurdish-based Democracy Party (DEP): Leyla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Orhan Dogan, and Selim Sadak, who have completed three years of their 15-year sentences, remain imprisoned at Ankara's Ulucanlar Prison. Among the actions cited in Leyla Zana's indictment was her appearance before the Helsinki Commission. The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights has expressed concern over the case of human rights lawyer Hasan Dogan, a member of the People's Democracy Party (HADEP), who, like many members of the party, has been subject to detention and prosecution.

The Government of Turkey has similarly pursued an aggressive campaign of harassment of non-governmental organizations, including the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey and the Human Rights Association. An Association forum on capital punishment was banned in early May as was a peace conference sponsored by international and Turkish NGOs. Human Rights Association branch offices in Diyarbakir, Malatya, Izmir, Konya, and Urga has been raided and closed.

As the Department's own report on human rights practices in Turkey recently concluded, Ankara "was unable to sustain improvements made in 1995 and, as a result, its record was uneven in 1996 and deteriorated in some respects." While Turkish civilian authorities remain publicly committed to the establishment of a rule of law state and respect for human rights, torture, excessive use of force, and other serious human rights abuses by the security forces continue. It is most unfortunate that Turkey's leaders, including President Demirel—who originally signed the 1975 Helsinki Final Act on behalf

of Turkey—have not been able to effectively address long-standing human rights concerns.

Madam Secretary, the privilege and prestige of hosting such an OSCE event should be reserved for participating States that have demonstrated their support for Helsinki principles and standards—particularly respect for human rights—in both word and in deed. Turkey should not be allowed to serve as host of such a meeting given that country's dismal human rights record.

While some may argue that allowing Turkey to host an OSCE summit meeting might provide political impetus for positive change, we are not convinced, particularly in light of the failure of the Turkish Government to improve the human rights situation in the eight months since it proposed to host the next OSCE summit. We note that several high-level conferences have been held in Turkey without any appreciable impact on that country's human rights policies or practices.

Promises of improved human rights alone should not suffice. Turkey's desire to host an OSCE summit must be matched by concrete steps to improve its dismal human rights record.

We appreciate your consideration of our views on this important matter and look forward to receiving your reply.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,  
Co-Chairman.  
ALFONSE D'AMATO,  
Chairman.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, DC, 20520 August 13, 1997.  
Hon. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,  
Co-Chairman, Commission on Security and Co-  
operation in Europe, House of Representa-  
tives.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am responding on behalf of the Secretary of State to your July 15 letter regarding your concerns about the possible selection of Turkey as the venue for the next summit meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The Department of State shares your concerns about Turkey's human rights record. All states participating in the OSCE are expected to adhere to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE commitments, including respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The U.S. Government has consistently called attention to human rights problems in Turkey and has urged improvements. It does not in any way condone Turkey's, or any other OSCE state's, failure to implement OSCE commitments.

The OSCE, however, is also a means of addressing and correcting human rights shortcomings. As you note in your letter, the issue of Turkey's human rights violations was raised at the November OSCE Review Meeting, and will likely continue to be raised at such meetings until Turkey demonstrates that it has taken concrete measures to improve its record. Holding the summit in Turkey could provide an opportunity to influence Turkey to improve its human rights record.

As you note, the Turkish government has made some effort to address problem areas, through the relaxation of restrictions on freedom of expression and the recent promulgation of legal reforms which, if fully implemented, would begin to address the torture problem. These measures are only a first step in addressing the problems that exist, but we believe they reflect the commitment of the Turkish government to address its human rights problems. We have been particularly encouraged by the positive attitude

the new government, which came to power July 12, has demonstrated in dealing with human rights issues.

As you know, the fifty-four nations of the OSCE will discuss the question of a summit venue. As in all OSCE decisions, any decision will have to be arrived at through consensus, which will likely take some time to achieve. In the meantime, the Department of State welcomes our views, and will seriously consider your concerns about the OSCE summit site. I welcome your continuing input on this issue, and thank you for your thoughtful letter.

We appreciate your letter and hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us again if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

BARBARA LARKIN,  
Assistant Secretary,  
Legislative Affairs.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, another day has gone by and still no campaign finance reform. My colleagues who oppose changing the current campaign finance system continue to argue that we must conduct exhaustive hearings on the abuses of the system during the 1996 election before we pass a reform bill. I agree that we must investigate violations of the law, and those who break the rules need to be prosecuted and brought to justice.

That very thing is happening in Virginia right now. The State of Virginia is charging the Republican National Committee for failure to disclose campaign contributions in excess of \$600,000 to GOP candidates during this fall election in that State. The contributions are legal, but the failure to disclose those contributions are a clear violation of Virginia campaign law.

In the special congressional election in New York City the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee has announced it will be spending \$800,000 in independent expenditures on behalf of the Republican congressional candidate. This "soft money" is being used to influence the outcome of the special election, even though campaign finance rules specifically prohibit direct expenditures on behalf of a candidate.

Mr. Speaker, we must investigate violations of the law by both parties, in the 1996 and 1997 elections. However, we also need to change the current rules that allow millions of dollars to be legally spent to buy elections in this country. It is time to stop the excuses and allow a vote on campaign finance reform. I refuse to take "no" for an answer.

THE CHINESE HUMAN RIGHTS  
RECORD AND THE VISIT TO THE  
UNITED STATES OF CHINESE  
PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this morning a number of us had a leadership breakfast with